could become a baby, we have more than 100 of them, is what we call the snowflake babies that have been adopted, implanted in the receptive womb of a mother, and they become a baby; to take this human life, and it is a life, and it is human, and destroy it so that you can produce a stem cell line.

Most of this debate ignores the fact simply because the debaters do not know that it is possible, Mr. Speaker, to get embryonic stem cell lines without harming embryos.

I would like to go back again to the second chart I showed, which is the path of the reproductive tract of a female, so that we can look at this again together so that we understand clearly what we are talking about here. We will imagine now that this is happening in the laboratory and it is in a petri dish, in glass. In vitro is what we call it. Because the parents could not have a baby any other way, they decided to have in vitro fertilization, and they decided they would like to at least do one thing, and that is to establish a repair kit for their baby. They might also want to do a preimplantation genetic diagnosis.

So now the physician in the clinic will wait until the cells divide and produce several embryos. By the way, they do not all produce really good-looking embryos, and so what they do is to fertilize more than one egg, and they then watch the development of these embryos, and they will take the best of them and generally more than one of them.

One of my colleagues, Congressman ROHRABACHER from California, his wife had three beautiful babies from in vitro fertilization. I do not know how many the doctor implanted, but at least three of those that he implanted grew, and she had triplets. I saw a recent picture of them in their little life vests out in the surf in California.

There is a potential ethical argument in doing this even if we let the parents make the decision they are going to do the in vitro fertilization, if the parents make the decision that they are going to establish a repair kit, and then all we ask for is a few cells from that repair kit. You see, if the cell is taken from the eight-cell stage, then you could make the argument that maybe the cell you took could become another embryo. So then you start all over again with the ethical argument. You now have another embryo. And so you now ethically should not destroy that embryo with the hope that you are going to have some applications to health care for somebody else.

There is, Mr. Speaker, one way to avoid this, and it is one of the things that our research, H.R. 3144, would pursue, and that is waiting a little later to take this cell. I am not sure for all the reasons that they take the cell at the eight-cell stage, but that is the convention. If you waited to take that cell from the inner cell mass stage, which is a little later, a few days later, then the differentiation has already occurred to the point that the cells in the inner cell mass which can produce the whole baby, but they cannot produce a baby by implantation because they have lost the ability to produce decidua. So you have now removed that possible ethical argument, although those who wrote the white paper on the Alternative Sources of Human Pluripotent Stem Cells do not believe that you could do this. But if there is any possibility that you could do that, then for those whose sensitivities would be offended by this, if we could demonstrate that you could take it from the inner cell mass stage, now you have bypassed even that.

Our bill, H.R. 3144, is a bill that looks for the moment only at animal experimentation, because we believe that before you go to humans, you ought to know that what you are doing is going to work and that it has worked. The best way to do that is to go to animals and ultimately to what we call nonhuman primates; that is, the big apes which genetically, by the way, are remarkably close to humans. It may be embarrassing, Mr. Speaker, to look at the genetic complement of one of the great apes and look at our genetic complement. There is not all that much difference in us. Once we have demonstrated it there, then we could have more certainty that it is going to work in humans.

What we do not need, Mr. Speaker, is for millions of Americans to feel that their last best hope for a cure for their relative had been removed when the President vetoes H.R. 810 and its Senate complement, which he has said he would do, which I hope he does. I think it is the ethical thing to do.

What we need, Mr. Speaker, is to have this bill on the President's desk so that those millions of people out there who believe that there is potentially a lot of applications in health care from embryonic stem cells will know that the Federal Government believes with them that this is possible; that we are going to support responsible, ethical research, using cells taken from early embryos that certainly do not kill the embryo, do not harm the embryo. As a matter of fact, if, Mr. Speaker, we get those cells, the surplus cells from the repair kit, then the parents have made two decisions which I think, and I believe most Americans will believe, are ethical, one, to have their own baby, the only way to do it is in vitro; secondly, to establish a repair kit so that at any time during its life, their child is going to have the potential for new tissues, new organs, new cells that is going to be them, so there will be no rejection.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw last night I hope results in a very positive eventuality. I hope that by the time H.R. 810 and its Senate complement gets to the President's desk, that also on his desk is H.R. 3144, so that the President can say, today I proudly sign a bill which provides for research which has the potential of producing embryonic stem cells for all the miraculous applications to health care that citizens all across the country believe. Because in State after State now they are voting in referenda to provide, sometimes in the legislature, sometimes just a vote of all the people, to provide very large amounts of money statewide because the Federal Government is not doing it, and they believe there is a big potential there.

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I hope that in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Speaker, that we will be using Federal funds to support responsible, ethical embryonic stem cell research, and H.R. 3144 will do it.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) ''An Act to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.''.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MICA (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CONAWAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material: Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.)

SENATE BILL AND A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A bill and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were